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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 5845  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 5950  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2081  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0186  
RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI PRIORITY 7270  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0012  
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RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 002874

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CCA - JARAHN HILLSMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/10/2019

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [PREL](#) [CU](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: THAILAND CONFIRMS NO MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN  
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA

REF: A. STATE 115416

[1](#)B. BANGKOK 1217 (THAILAND RESPONSE)

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Classified By: Pol Counselor George Kent, reasons 1.4 (b, d)

[1](#)1. (SBU) Poloff engaged Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Latin America Division official Trit Kiriratnikom November 11 regarding updated information on the Thai-Cuban relationship. Trit explained that there had been no major developments in the Thai-Cuban relationship in the past six months, since we last responded to a similar query (ref B). Trit re-confirmed that Thailand does not have significant economic or political interests in Cuba. We have provided information on Thai-Cuban ties below, as requested ref A.

[1](#)2. (C) Response:

(a) - Has Thailand, in Post's opinion, worked to promote the advancement of democracy and humanrights in Cuba?

Thailand has not specifically worked to advance democracy and human rights in Cuba; this is in keeping with Royal Thai Government (RTG) policy not to intervene in the domestic affairs of a sovereign nation unless prompted by the UN or other multilateral fora, according to Trit.

(b) - Has the RTG made public statements or undertaken other governmental actions, such as resolutions in the national assemblies condemning human rights abuses in Cuba; or actions in support of civil society in Cuba through host country's diplomatic missions or other fora?

Because of the above-mentioned policy and lack of significant relations, Thailand has not made public statements or taken other actions supporting civil society in Cuba or condemning human rights abuses in Cuba.

(c) - Have there been any high-level diplomatic visits between Cuba and the host country in the past six months?

MFA Special Advisor Surapong Jayanama, to Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, attended the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Ministerial Meeting in Havana, Cuba April 27-30. Kasit attend the NAM Summit in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt July 11-16 on behalf of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. Surapong and Kasit attended the NAM meetings attended by Cuban officials, but there were no bilateral meetings.

(d) - What is the nature of investments (and names, if known) that RTG businesses have in Cuba?

The Bank of Thailand (BOT) reports no investment from Thailand to Cuba. Commercial banks are required to report to the BOT all foreign currency transactions that come into or go out of Thailand, including any involving Thai investments overseas.

(e) - Are there any bilateral trade agreements or other cooperative agreements between Thailand and Cuba?

There are no trade agreements between Thailand and Cuba, but there is some limited bilateral trade between the two. In 2008, the total trade was less than \$10 million. The primary Thai export to Cuba was rubber (\$3.6 million) and the primary import from Cuba was tobacco products (\$0.7 million). In 2007 total trade was \$7.1 million, and in 2006 total trade was \$31.63 million.

(f) - Are there any exchange programs between Thailand and Cuba, including but not limited to: scholarships for Thai nationals to study in Cuba; Cuban-paid medical travel for Thai nationals; and Cuban doctors working in Thailand?

Limited exchange programs do exist between Cuba and Thailand, according to Trit. Cuban experts come to Thailand for

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agriculture and fisheries training and, in return, Thai students go to Cuba for physical education courses. The coaches of the 1996 and 2000 Thai Olympic boxing teams were Cubans. There have also been attempts to establish cooperation in the area of medical vaccines, but nothing has materialized.

JOHN